

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<b>In re Application of:</b>	Naoki Mukaida <i>et al.</i>	<b>Examiner:</b>	Rojas, Midys
<b>Application No.:</b>	10/032,949	<b>Group Art Unit:</b>	2185
<b>Filing Date:</b>	December 26, 2001	<b>Office Action Date:</b>	January 17, 2006
<b>Docket No.</b>	10416-18	<b>Confirmation No.</b>	7222
<b>Title:</b>	MEMORY CONTROLLER, FLASH MEMORY SYSTEM HAVING MEMORY CONTROLLER AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING FLASH MEMORY DEVICE		
	<b>Customer No.</b>	30076	

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Examiner:

This is responsive to the final Office action of January 17, 2006, and is timely filed.

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Claims 1, 3, 17, 18, and 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 17, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiraka (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,573). No claims have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Applicants respectfully contend that the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the cited references.